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Letter dated 25 May 2016 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to resolution 2288 (2016), by which the Security Council terminated the sanctions regime on Liberia, and the related sanctions committee, on 25 May 2016.

In this connection, I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 25 May 2016. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia covers the period from 1 January to 25 May 2016.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Volodymyr Yelchenko (Ukraine) as Chair and the representatives of Angola and Spain as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1521 (2003), the Security Council imposed sanctions measures on Liberia in connection with arms, diamonds and timber, together with targeted measures on designated individuals in relation to travel. By its resolution 1532 (2004), the Council decided that States should freeze the assets of designated individuals and entities. In these and its subsequent resolutions, 1549 (2004), 1579 (2004), 1607 (2005), 1647 (2005), 1683 (2006), 1688 (2006), 1689 (2006), 1731 (2006), 1753 (2007), 1760 (2007), 1792 (2007), 1819 (2008), 1854 (2008), 1903 (2009), 1961 (2010), 2025 (2011), 2079 (2012), 2128 (2013), 2188 (2014) and 2237 (2015), the Council also outlined certain exemptions to, modified and further elaborated the scope of the measures.

4. By its resolution 1521 (2003), the Security Council also established a committee to oversee the implementation of the measures. A panel of experts was also established to provide the Committee with information regarding the implementation of the measures and progress made towards meeting the conditions for the lifting of sanctions.

5. By its resolution 1689 (2006), the Security Council decided not to renew the prohibitions on the import of round logs and timber products from Liberia, and by its resolution 1753 (2007), decided to terminate the measures on diamonds.

6. By its resolution 1683 (2006), the Security Council modified the arms embargo to incorporate additional exemptions for the Liberian Special Security Service and, subject to advance approval by the Committee, for members of the Liberian police and security forces vetted and trained since the inception of the United Nations Mission in Liberia in October 2003.

7. By its resolution 1903 (2009), and subsequently in its resolutions 2025 (2011) and 2079 (2012), the Council decided that for a period of 12 months the measures on arms should not apply to the Government of Liberia, but it renewed those measures for the same period with regard to all non-governmental entities and individuals operating in the territory of Liberia. In the same resolution, the Council also decided that all States should notify the Committee in advance of any shipment of arms and related materiel to the Government of Liberia or of any provision of assistance, advice or training relating to military activities for the Government.

8. By its resolution 2128 (2013), the Security Council modified the notification requirements associated with the arms embargo, deciding that the Liberian

authorities should have the primary responsibility to notify the Committee at least five days in advance of the shipment of any supplies of lethal arms and related materiel, or any provision of assistance, advice or training relating to military or other security sector activities for the Government.

9. By its resolution 2237 (2015), the Council decided to renew the measures on arms previously imposed pursuant to resolution 1903 (2009), as modified by subsequent resolutions, for a period of nine months. By the same resolution, the Security Council decided to terminate the targeted measures on travel and finance.

10. On 25 May, by its resolution 2288 (2016), the Council decided to terminate, with immediate effect, the measures on arms and to dissolve, with immediate, effect the Committee and the Panel of Experts.

11. Further background information on the Liberia sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

12. The Committee met twice in informal consultations, on 6 February and 11 April, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

13. During the informal consultations held on 6 February, the Panel of Experts provided an overview of its work programme via video-teleconference.

14. During the informal consultations held on 11 April, the Panel presented, via video-teleconference, the main findings contained in its final report (S/2016/348), pursuant to resolution 2237 (2015). The Committee considered the recommendations contained in the report.

15. On 13 May, the Chair of the Committee briefed the Security Council during consultations on the activities of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 21 (g) of resolution 1521 (2003).

16. The Committee sent three communications to a Member State and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

17. Exemptions to the arms embargo are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1683 (2006), paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 1731 (2006), paragraphs 3 to 6 of resolution 1903 (2009), paragraph 3 of resolution 1961 (2010) and paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 2128 (2013).

18 The Committee received two notifications pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 2128 (2013), in connection with the transfer of personal protective equipment and explosives to the Government of Liberia to continue humanitarian demining operations and with weapons and ammunition being supplied to the Liberia National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization and the Executive Protection Service.

V. Panel of Experts

19. On 31 March, in accordance with paragraph 3 (b) of resolution 2237 (2015), the Panel transmitted its final report to the Committee, which was transmitted to the Security Council on 15 April and issued as a document of the Council (S/2016/348).

VI. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

20. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures.

21. As part of the Division's effort to recruit well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States to notify them of upcoming vacancies on specific sanctions panels, providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

22. The Division continued to provide substantive advice and support to the Panel of Experts, assisting in the preparation of the Panel's final report.